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MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 1899.

The new State Legislature convenes to-morrow at Harrisburg. The organization will, as a matter of course, consume considerable time, as the Senatorial question is mixed up with the Speakership of the lower house.

Some of the Western members will endeavor to strengthen the claims of a Western man upon the seat to be vacated by Mr. Bookalaw, by placing a Philadelphian in the Speaker's chair, and then pressing the insignificant argument that one section of the State should not be permitted to monopolize all the honors.

When this question of organization is once settled, but little will be done in the way of practical legislation until the Senatorial problem is finally solved, although a couple of weeks must elapse, under the law of Congress as it is now.

As we have repeatedly declared, we have no individual preferences in the matter. The new Legislature was selected by the people for the express purpose of choosing a Senator, and if its member are not able to find a suitable man for the position without outside pressure, they may as well disperse at once.

Mr. Bookalaw is a Democrat, and, as a matter of course, will not retain his seat, although the Democratic members may endorse his course in the Senate by giving him the poor compliment of their votes. This much he certainly deserves, for, although his Senatorial record has not been particularly brilliant one, he has at least conducted himself with becoming dignity and courage, and by his advocacy of political reform has deserved the commendation of all good citizens who desire to see the glaring abuses of the present system done away with.

It will be some days before the Republican caucus fixes upon the fortunate man who is to succeed Mr. Bookalaw. In doing so they should be guided by one principle alone—the selection of the best man in the State for the position. The interests of Pennsylvania in the Senate are too momentous to be entrusted to feeble, incompetent, or corrupt hands. A man sans peur et sans reproche—without fear of political demagogues and without the possible taint of corruption—is the man demanded by the interests of the Commonwealth and the responsibility of the position. Above all, we trust that the members of the Legislature will ignore the argument of locality entirely, and if the best man for the place is found in Middletown, let Senator Cameron's colleague be his next-door neighbor.

The City Councils. This morning the first meeting of the two branches of the new City Councils was held for purposes of organization. As was expected, the old officers were all reelected, and the business of our City Legislatures will go on about the same as if no interruption had occurred. The position of a Councilman is by no means a sinecure. There are nearly a score of States in the Union whose population does not equal that of the city of Philadelphia, and whose necessary legislation does not approach that of our city in quantity or importance. Our new Mayor has freely extended his hand to the members of Councils, and laid down a policy in his inaugural address, which cannot fail to benefit the city if it be rigidly adhered to by him and not wantonly obstructed or embarrassed by the action of Councils. The Republican members of these bodies should meet Mayor Fox half way, and enter into a laudable rivalry with him to give the city a wholesome, impartial, and non-partisan administration. If this be done, our city will be benefited in a thousand different ways, not least among which will be a marked decrease in the burdens of taxation.

Infanticide. The statement made by the Coroner in his annual report with regard to the increase of the crime of infanticide, is calculated to cause serious apprehension, and to excite discussions as to whether something cannot be done to check this fearful evil. During the year 1898 the number of cases of infanticide was 94, against 66 in the year 1897. The Coroner remarks that "this shows a fearful increase in the crime of child-murder, which is sufficient to excite considerable alarm in the community. It is almost impossible to prevent such crimes by any law which could be passed, but some legislative action might tend to considerably lessen the number of 'innocents' who are slaughtered by unnatural mothers." The case of Hester Vaughan is the only one among the entire number that are included in the Coroner's report that has excited any great degree of public interest. While many persons thought that this woman ought not to be allowed to go unpunished, the general voice of public opinion was against the extreme penalty of the law being enforced against her; and from the statements made by the Governor to persons who interested themselves in her behalf, it is probable that he never intended to permit the sentence of the court to be executed.

The circumstances which usually induce the commission of the crime of infanticide are such that it is impossible not to feel much sympathy for the criminal; but in view of such an exhibit as that made by the Coroner, it is worth while to consider whether such sympathies are not misdirected. It is impossible for any legislative action to check the crime of child-murder so long as public opinion is on the side of the murderer, and we cannot but think, with Judge Ludlow, that an example is needed, and that a criminal of this kind, tried, sentenced, and the sentence unrelentingly carried out in spite of the appeals of the sympathizing, would have a most salutary effect in preventing others from committing the same offense.

We have very little hope, however, that the extreme penalty of the law, as it stands, will ever be enforced; and perhaps if the death penalty were done away with in cases of this kind, and it was understood that any punishment less than death would be enforced according to the strict letter of the law, and that no appeals for mercy would be listened to for a moment by the executive, but that retribution swift and sure would follow the offense, we would be able to make some impression on the minds of those who are disposed to tread in the footsteps of Hester Vaughan.

The subject, we admit, is full of difficulties; whichever way we look at it. The ordinary cases of infanticide make a different impression on the minds of the community from the murder of adults; but in view of the enormous increase of the crime during the past year, it is evident that some practical measures should be adopted to check it if possible.

Specie Payments. Under the old banking system of this country the periodical suspensions of specie payments were usually, if not invariably, caused by such a derangement of the balance of trade as depleted the American stock of the precious metals. Excessive importations of foreign manufactures were continued under low tariffs until the industrial interests of the nation became depressed, and large debts were due abroad. The country merchants bought on credit from the jobbers, the jobbers purchased on credit from the importers and manufacturers, the importers negotiated as best they could American notes to meet their foreign obligations; and when the European demand for gold became urgent, after our markets were glutted with goods, a shock was given to the complicated credit system then prevailing, which soon led to a suspension of specie payments. As the bulk of the assets of the banks consisted of commercial paper, they were compelled to refuse to redeem their notes and checks in gold as soon as merchants failed to meet maturing obligations. The disastrous effect of excessive importations was, of course, greatly heightened by deficient exports. If the cotton or grain crop failed, or if the prices of the American staples in European markets were reduced below the average standard, our foreign creditors became distrustful of their debtors in this country, and in their eagerness to secure immediate payment they deranged our whole financial system. It was common to trace back the old suspensions to the failure of some particular bank or trust company, and to ascribe numerous subsequent failures to the unlucky or unfavorable circumstances which precipitated the first downfall; but those who carefully noted all the influences prevailing on such occasions, did not fail to observe that the banks fell "like bricks in a row" only when the general prosperity of the country had been undermined by a prostration of its diversified industry, and by an unhealthy disproportion between its imports and exports.

The success of the manifold plans for resumption of specie payments which are now agitated hinges upon the single point whether the export of specie can be arrested. If the present stock of available precious metals in this country could be increased by an addition of the products of the rich new mining territories for a few years, the supply of gold would be amply sufficient to justify and maintain resumption. The body of the American people have full faith in the disposition and willingness of the Government to honestly meet all its obligations, and but a small amount of gold would be sufficient to supply the demand of our citizens for specie in exchange for promises to pay which were commonly held to be as good as specie, and more portable and convenient. Foreign creditors, however, are beyond the reach of the legal tender act, and they will never be content to receive greenbacks as a substitute for gold. If we continue to contract debts abroad at the rate of one hundred million dollars or more per annum, we must either pursue the suicidal policy of increasing the permanent foreign indebtedness represented by stocks and bonds, or make large exports of the precious metals, and thus postpone the period of resumption. The difficulty can scarcely be overcome by any single remedy. It will require the combination of a variety of favorable influences—Congress cooperating with the people, legislation doing something, and economy, industry, and favorable seasons still more. If the people cease to waste their substance for foreign luxuries; if American goods and wares are generally substituted for foreign fabrics; if the exports of petroleum, corn, cotton, flour, wheat, provisions, and other perishable articles are largely increased, and if the balance of trade is turned in our favor, almost any plan of resumption will then indeed become the true way to resume.

THE "MORNING POST" of this city celebrated the opening of the new year by a considerable enlargement of its space. This has rendered necessary an increase in the enterprise of its managers, and the few days that have since elapsed have shown that they daily appreciate the requirements of enterprising journalism. There was room enough for the Post in its diminutive form, and now that it has become larger and more pretentious, it will still find an ample field for the display of all the money and ability that its proprietors choose to lavish upon it.

—Pocket-picking is a hanging crime with Western vigilance committees.

—The Paropa-Rosa troupe made \$78,000, gold, by 61 performances in San Francisco.

—The President-elect's Views of Public Men—The "World" Reports the General's Opinions.

GENERAL GRANT. The President-elect's Views of Public Men—The "World" Reports the General's Opinions.

Concerning Butler. "Butler is not so bad a man as his enemies imagine him to be. I have no ill will towards him, and no objection to his being re-elected."

General McClellan. In answer to the inquiry about the newspaper story that had been a Cabinet portfolio to General McClellan, General Grant said: "There is no truth in the report that I have offered General McClellan a place in my Cabinet."

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COLD WEATHER DOES NOT CHAP. ALONSO WOLYARIN TABLET/SOLIDIFIED GLYCERIN.

THE COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED under the authority of an Ordinance approved the 3rd of December, 1898.

YOUNG M. MENNERCHOR. THE GREAT MASQUE. AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

ATLANTIC AND GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY. Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the stockholders of the Atlantic and Great Western Railway Company.

PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILROAD COMPANY. Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the stockholders of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company.

THE PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON AND BALTIMORE HALL AND COAL COMPANY. Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the stockholders of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Hall and Coal Company.

BANK OF NORTH AMERICA. The Directors have declared a dividend of SEVEN AND A HALF PER CENT.

NATIONAL BANK OF THE REPUBLIC. The Annual Meeting of the stockholders of this bank will be held at the Banking House, on TUESDAY, January 10, 1899.

GIRARD NATIONAL BANK. The Annual Meeting of the stockholders of this bank will be held at the Banking House, on TUESDAY, January 10, 1899.

FARMERS' AND MECHANICS' NATIONAL BANK. The Annual Meeting of the stockholders of this bank will be held at the Banking House, on TUESDAY, January 10, 1899.

THE FARM INSURANCE COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA. Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the stockholders of the Farm Insurance Company of Philadelphia.

INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA. Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the stockholders of the Insurance Company of the State of Pennsylvania.

CAMBRIA IRON COMPANY. Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the stockholders of the Cambria Iron Company.

SHAMOKIN COAL COMPANY. Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the stockholders of the Shamokin Coal Company.

CITY TREASURER'S OFFICE. Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the stockholders of the City Treasurer's Office.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.

OFFICE OF THE NORTH PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY. Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the stockholders of the North Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

OFFICE OF THE GREEN AND COALFIELDS RAILROAD COMPANY. Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the stockholders of the Green and Coalfields Railroad Company.

OFFICE OF THE UNION PASSING RAILROAD COMPANY. Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the stockholders of the Union Passing Railroad Company.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED SECURITY RAILROAD COMPANY. Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the stockholders of the United Security Railroad Company.

OFFICE PHILADELPHIA AND TRENTON RAILROAD COMPANY. Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the stockholders of the Philadelphia and Trenton Railroad Company.

LECTURES. W. H. HERSTING. THE UNDERGROUND. RETURN OUR PRANKS TO THE FIREMEN.

LECTURES. W. H. HERSTING. ARE AMERICANS CELTS OR SAXONS? Concert Hall, on Thursday Evening, January 7, 1899.

HOW FUNNY THE NEW YEAR CAME IN! What extra ridiculous sort of weather! Rain and snow and ice together!

GREAT BROWN-STONE HALL OF ROCKHILL & WILSON, Nos. 603 and 605 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

MARSHALL'S ELIXIR. Headache—Dyspepsia—Constiveness. If you suffer with Headache try MARSHALL'S ELIXIR.

COATINGS! COATINGS! JAMES & LEE, No. 11 NORTH SECOND STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS. FIVE THOUSAND NEW MUSIC ALBUMS, Magnificently Bound in Gold and Leather.

J. E. GOULD'S PIANO WAREHOUSES. No. 923 CHESTNUT STREET, Containing FIFTY of the Newest Pieces of Music for the Piano, Vocal and Instrumental.

HAZARD'S ENGLISH BOOKSTORE. Hazard's Bookstore is becoming synonymous with good books.

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